

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An apparatus for wrapping a napkin around one or more utensils, comprising:

a generally rectangular hollow housing having, an output opening disposed on said housing, a utensil input and a napkin input;

a support frame, positioned inside of said housing, having an assembly of vertically oriented beams and horizontally oriented support rails;

a napkin lifting station for receiving and supporting a stack of napkins, the napkins being placed onto said lifting station through said napkin input;

~~a napkin wrapping station having a plurality of conveyor belts for wrapping a napkin around a predetermined amount of utensils;~~

~~a napkin transfer station for individually transferring napkins from said napkin lifting station to said napkin wrapping station;~~

a utensil transfer station for simultaneously placing a plurality of utensils onto an individual napkin while the napkin is positioned on the napkin wrapping station; and

~~said utensil transfer station including a plurality of cartridges for sortingly storing stacks of a plurality of types of utensils, a plurality of utensils grippers for lifting and removing selected utensils from the cartridges, a feed conveyor belt for transporting selected utensils to the napkin, and a bracket for mounting the said utensil transfer station to said support frame;~~

a napkin folding station for folding over corners of a napkin prior to being wrapped by said wrapping station; and

a napkin wrapping station having a plurality of conveyor belts for wrapping a napkin around a predetermined amount of utensils;

wherein said napkin transfer station individually transfers napkins from said napkin lifting station to said napkin wrapping station;

whereby said napkin lifting station, napkin wrapping station, napkin transfer station, napkin folding station and utensil transfer station are each disposed on said support frame;

whereby a predetermined amount of utensils are automatically wrapped in a napkin for use as a place setting without the need of human contact.

Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 1—wherein 1, said napkin lifting stationcomprises further including:

a platform having a flat top surface;

a plurality of platform supports; and

a platform lift for incrementally lifting said platform after a predetermined number of napkins are removed from the napkin lifting station.

Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 1—wherein 1, said napkin wrapping stationcomprises further including:

a pair of sidewalls;

a horizontally oriented, elongated output conveyor belt disposed between the pair of sidewalls;

a pair of counter-rotating napkin wrapping belts;

a wrapping carriage having a plurality of winding rollers;

a wrapping carriage shifter assembly; and

a plurality of actuators for powering said napkin wrapping station.

Claim 4. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 1—wherein 1, said napkin transfer station ~~comprises~~ further including:

a base plate having a flat bottom surface and an area generally equivalent to the size of a napkin;

a plurality of suction devices, for releasably engaging the napkins, disposed along the bottom surface of the base plate;

a height adapter for raising and lowering said base plate;

a pair of guide rails; and

a shifter assembly for repositioning said base plate along the guide rails.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 1—wherein 1, said utensil transfer station ~~comprises~~ further including:

~~a plurality of cartridges for sortingly storing stacks of a plurality of types of utensils;~~

a plurality of lifters for lifting each of the stacks of utensils; and

a plurality of utensils grippers for removing individual utensils from the cartridges;
a shifter assembly for lifting and transporting the utensils from the cartridges to the napkin; and
~~a bracket for mounting the said utensil transfer station to said support frame.~~

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said utensil transfer station ~~further comprises~~ a feed conveyor belt for receiving receives the utensils from the utensil grippers and subsequently ~~transporting~~ transports the utensils to the napkins, and said shifter assembly moves said utensil grippers between said plurality of cartridges and said feed conveyor belt.

Claim 7. (*Original*) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein each of said cartridges contains a different type of utensil and the number of cartridges used may vary depending on the number of different utensils used.

Claim 8. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 5 ~~wherein 5,~~ said utensil grippers ~~comprises~~ further including a pneumatic gripper having a pair of fingers for releasably engaging the sides of the utensils.

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 4 ~~wherein 1,~~ said napkin folding station comprises:

a folding arm having at least one suction device disposed on its bottom surface for releasably engaging the napkin;

a vacuum lift for raising and lowering the folding arm; and

a shifter assembly for allowing the folding arm to manipulate the napkin.

Claim 10. (*Original*) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said output opening is aligned with said output conveyor belt so that the wrapped utensils will exit out of the apparatus along said output conveyor belt and through said output opening.

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each one of said plurality of cartridges includes utensil input comprises a door disposed on said housing cartridge and allows the utensils to be placed in each of said cartridges of for use in said utensil transfer station.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein 2, said napkin input comprises further including a door disposed on said housing and aligned with said napkin lifting station to allow the napkins to be placed on said napkin lifting station.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) An apparatus for wrapping a napkin around one or more utensils comprising:

a generally rectangular shaped, hollow housing having an output opening, a utensil input access door and a napkin input access door;

a support frame, positioned inside of said housing, having an assembly of vertically disposed beams and horizontally disposed support rails;

a napkin lifting station for receiving and supporting a stack of napkins, the napkins being placed onto said lifting station through said napkin input access door, said lifting station having a platform, with a flat top, a plurality of supports and a platform lift for incrementally lifting said platform after a predetermined amount of napkins are removed from the stack;

a napkin wrapping station for wrapping a napkin around a predetermined amount of utensils, having a pair of sidewalls, an output conveyor belt disposed between said pair of sidewalls, a pair of counter-rotating napkin wrapping belts, a wrapping carriage having a plurality of winding rollers, a wrapping carriage shifter assembly and a plurality of actuators for operating said napkin wrapping station;

a napkin transfer station for individually transferring napkins from said napkin lifting station to said napkin wrapping station, having a base plate with a flat bottom surface, a plurality of suction devices disposed on the bottom surface of the base plate, a height adapter for raising and lowering the base plate, a pair of guide rails and a shifter assembly for repositioning the base plate along the guide rails;

a utensil transfer station for simultaneously placing a plurality of types of utensils onto an individual napkin while the napkin is positioned on said napkin wrapping station, said utensil transfer station having a plurality of cartridges for sortingly storing a plurality of types of

utensils, a plurality of lifters for lifting each of the stacks of utensil out of the cartridges, a plurality of utensils grippers for removing individual utensils from the cartridges, a utensil shifter assembly for lifting and transporting the utensils onto the napkins and a bracket for mounting said utensil transfer station to said support frame; and

a napkin folding station for folding over corners of a napkin prior to being wrapped by said wrapping station, having a folding arm with a suction device disposed on its bottom surface for releasably engaging the napkin and a shifting assembly for allowing the folding arm to manipulate the napkin;

whereby said napkin lifting station, napkin wrapping station, napkin transfer station, napkin folding station and utensil transfer station are each disposed on said support frame;

whereby wherein upon receiving a predetermined amount of utensils from said utensil transfer station, and depositing the predetermined amount of utensils on the napkin at said napkin wrapping station, the predetermined amount of utensils are automatically wrapped in a the napkin ~~for use as a place setting without the need of human contact.~~

Claim 14-18 (*Canceled*)